

Appl. No. 10/080,994
Amdt. Dated October 16, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0250
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-29 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 24, 25 and 27 are being amended and claims 26 and 29 are being cancelled, to advance the prosecution of the application. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, objection is made to claims 27-29 because of informalities in claim 27. Suggestions are made for correcting the informalities in claim 27. In response, applicants are adopting the suggested changes in claim 27 in order to correct the informalities.

In paragraph 3 which begins on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Regarding claim 24, it is said that it is not clear where the preamble ends. Also, no structural elements are said to be found in the claim, and it is suggested that supporting elements or means be added to the claim. In response, Applicants are amending claim 24 to clear where the preamble ends and the body of the claim begins. In addition, the claim is being extensively amended so that it recites interruption means, reproducing means, comparing means and resuming means. Claim 26 is being cancelled and the limitations thereof added to claim 24 so as to include detection means. As so amended, claim 24 should now be clear and definite. Similar comments apply to claim 25 which depends from claim 24 and which as amended includes means for causing.

In paragraph 4 which begins on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,636,468 of Salmonsen in view of U.S. Patent 6,643,233 of Yen, or in the alternative, over Salmonsen in view of Yen and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,487,047 of Oka.

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In paragraph 5 which begins on page 6 of the Office Action, claim 29 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections on informal grounds and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 29 is being cancelled, and the limitations thereof are being added to claim 27. As noted above, the suggested amendments for correcting the informalities in claim 27 have been made. Therefore, claim 27 should be in condition for allowance. Similar comments apply to claim 28 which depends from and contains all of the limitations of claim 27.

In addition to being extensively amended in order to set forth means limitations, claim 24 is being amended to add the limitation of claim 26, with claim 26 being cancelled in view thereof. The prior art does not show or suggest the combination set forth in claim 24, so that such claim is now submitted to be allowable. Similar comments apply to claim 25 which depends from and contains all of the limitations of claim 24.

In conclusion, claims 24, 25, 27 and 28 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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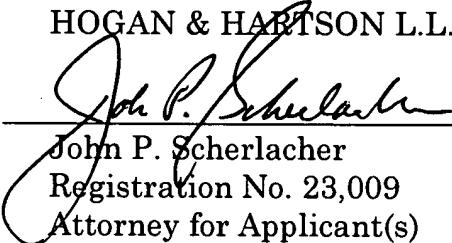
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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